

C. Amendments to the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Originally Presented) A cane holder comprising:
 - (a) a flexible support strap having first and second terminal ends for positioning about the body of a cane user,
 - (b) a cane-engaging member secured to the support strap, said cane-engaging member having at least two interconnected openings of disparate size for adjustable support of a cane in a substantially vertical position on the person of a user.

2. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 1 in which the cane-engaging member is formed from a resilient material that can be distorted to allow placement therein of a cane having a shaft dimension larger than the interconnection between the at least two interconnected openings.

3. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 2 wherein the interconnection between the two interconnected cane openings is characterized by flexible protrusions between which a cane shaft may be laterally passed.

4. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 2 in which there are more than two interconnected disparate-sized openings.

5. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 2 wherein the largest opening is of elongated shape with at least one relatively thin flexible side.

6. (Currently Amended) A cane holder especially for support from the person of the user comprising:

- (a) a three dimensional plastic member having greater lateral dimensions than thickness dimensions,
- (b) at least two differentially sized orifices arranged side-by-side and in direct communication with each other through an intervening passageway such that a cane positioned in a larger of the at least two differentially sized orifices can be passed laterally directly from the larger of the at least two orifices into a smaller of the at least two orifice,
- (c) the plastic member being composed at least at the ~~interconnecting portions~~ sides of the intervening passageway of a flexible polymer that can be deformed sufficiently to allow passage of a cane from the larger differentially sized ~~one~~ orifice to the ~~other~~ smaller orifice of the at least two

differentially sized orifices when the cane is larger than the interconnecting passage, and

(d) means to retain the plastic member ~~on or about~~ at least temporarily connected to the person body of a cane user.

7. (Currently Amended) A cane holder in accordance with claim 6 wherein there are more than two differentially sized interconnecting orifices in the three dimensional plastic member.

8. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 6 wherein the means to retain the plastic members on or about the person of the cane user is a lanyard.

9. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 8 wherein the lanyard is provided with a breakaway feature for reasons of safety.

10. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 9 wherein the breakaway feature is comprised of a connector disengagable upon the application of a predetermined tension.

11. (Currently Amended) A cane holder in accordance with claim 6 wherein the larger of the at least two differentially sized orifices has significantly greater dimensions in one lateral direction than transverse thereto.

12. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 11 wherein the dimensions of plastic along at least one side of the larger orifice are dimensioned to allow greater flexibility in the dimensions of such orifice.

13. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 6 additionally including a gate in the exterior wall of at least one orifice to allow lateral admission of a cane to such orifice.

14. (Originally Presented) A cane holder in accordance with claim 13 wherein the gate is a sliding gate structure.

15. (Originally Presented) A method of storing a cane temporarily while the user is otherwise occupied comprising:

- (a) placing the cane in a holder having at least two disparate sized interconnecting orifices in the general range of sizes of the cane shaft diameter,

- (b) said cane being entered into the larger of the disparate sized orifices with an endwise orientation,
- (c) moving the cane laterally through the interconnection between the orifices into the smaller of the orifices where the cane is retained by side contact with the cane holder structure,
- (d) allowing the cane to remain in such smaller sized orifice until required and then removing for further use.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of storing a cane in accordance with claim 15 wherein sufficient force is applied to the cane ~~is to~~ forced it from ~~the~~ a larger looser fitting orifice into ~~the~~ a smaller more tightly fitting orifice through a relatively small-sized interconnecting passage by force sufficient to temporarily deforming the composition of the holder.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of storing a cane in accordance with claim 16 wherein the cane ~~is retained in~~ after passage into the smaller of the orifices ~~by~~ is allowed to be retained therein with a loose fit about the cane ~~and wherein with~~ the head at the upper end of the shaft of the cane will not ~~is unable to~~ pass through the orifice as the result of a differential size between the orifice and at least one dimension of the head of the cane.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of storing a cane in accordance with claim 16 wherein the cane is allowed to be retained by close contact of the orifice sides with at least two points on the sides of the shaft of the cane as a reaction against ~~forcing~~ initial forceful movement of the cane into the orifice.